



## Proposed Legislation

### The problem

The state's electronics recycling program, E-Cycle Washington, is currently limited to recycling TVs, computers, monitors, e-readers and portable DVD players. Consumers, schools, small businesses, charities and local governments have consistently requested that the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) make other common electronics eligible for recycling through E-Cycle Washington. Demand for expanding the number of products accepted grows every year.

Common electronics that are peripheral to TVs and computers, such as video game consoles and printers, contain many of the same toxic components and recyclable resources as TVs and computers. Those toxic materials and recyclable resources should be managed properly and recycled – not thrown into a landfill.

### The solution

The E-Cycle program has been in operation for over five years. It is well established and running smoothly. Other states with programs similar to E-Cycle Washington are adding peripheral devices, and it is time for Washington to do so as well.

Ecology is proposing to amend the authorizing law for the E-Cycle program (Chapter 70.95N RCW) by expanding the definition of "covered electronic product" to include certain "peripheral" devices:

- Computer keyboards and mice
- External hard drives
- Printers
- Video game consoles
- Video cassette recorders/players (VCRs)
- Digital video recorders (DVRs)
- Digital video disk players (DVDs)

### Why it matters:

Unwanted electronics are widely acknowledged as the fastest growing waste stream in the United States.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, used electronics make up two percent of America's trash going into landfills and 70 percent of the overall toxic waste.

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### Special accommodations:

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources Program at (360) 407-6900. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

## **Ecology's proposal**

### **How it will work**

As is the case with the manufacturers of TVs, computers and the other products currently included in the E-Cycle program, the manufacturers of these peripheral devices would be required to register and participate in the E-Cycle program. The manufacturers would be responsible for a share of the E-Cycle program's costs based on the sales of their products in Washington State.

### **How it will benefit Washington**

The E-Cycle program already provides many benefits to Washington. Expanding the scope of products accepted by the program will only increase those benefits.

- Toxic materials such as lead, cadmium, mercury, and brominated flame-retardants are recycled and reused or otherwise properly managed – not thrown into landfills where environmental contamination is a risk.
- Valuable resources such as copper, aluminum, and steel are reused instead of wasted.
- The strong public demand for more recycling (and less waste) is answered.
- This expansion will further encourage the reuse of unwanted, but fully functioning consumer electronics. Charity organizations will be able to resell the working peripherals they receive through E-Cycle Washington, as they do now with TVs and computer equipment. In 2013, over 40,000 working TVs, computers, and monitors were resold by charities participating in the E-Cycle program.
- More products coming into the E-Cycle program will support more jobs in the recycling industry.



### **More information**

[www.ecyclewashington.org/](http://www.ecyclewashington.org/)